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Letter dated 15 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, concerning the latest developments following the withdrawal of Qatar from the mediation process in the territorial dispute between the Republic of Djibouti and Eritrea, and the immediate withdrawal of its peacekeeping force (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamed Siad **Doualeh**

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Annex to the letter dated 15 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention to the latest developments following the withdrawal of Qatar from the mediation process in the territorial dispute between the Republic of Djibouti and Eritrea, which concerns a direct infringement of the territorial sovereignty of the Republic of Djibouti and also poses a significant threat to peace and security in the region.

In an official note dated 13 June 2017 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Djibouti was informed that Qatar had taken the unilateral decision, without prior consultation, to cease acting as mediator between Djibouti and Eritrea. Qatar had assumed that mediation role pursuant to the agreement of 6 June 2010 on a peaceful settlement of the dispute concerning the delimitation of the land and maritime borders of both States.

Qatari soldiers from the peacekeeping force deployed on the border between both States, pursuant to the aforementioned agreement, therefore began to withdraw from their position in the Doumeira area.

During the initial phase of this withdrawal, for which men and equipment were repatriated to the capital of Djibouti, two Qatari soldiers were involved in a traffic accident that cost one of them his life and left the other seriously injured.

Naturally, the Djiboutian authorities fully assisted the Qatari force in its repatriation operations, particularly in evacuating the injured to the military hospital in Djibouti City for appropriate treatment.

However, the unilateral decision of Qatar not only to withdraw from mediation but also to withdraw its peacekeeping force on the border poses a grave threat to the security of Djibouti and to peace and stability in the region, insofar as it creates a lasting void in the area and leaves the opposing forces in a situation that could degenerate at any moment.

The Government of the Republic of Djibouti regrets this unilateral decision of Qatar, which presents the two countries with *a fait accompli*, and considers that this action by Qatar endangers security and stability in the region.

The Government of the Republic of Djibouti calls on the Security Council to examine this matter as swiftly as possible and, recalling the various resolutions adopted by the Security Council, in particular resolutions 1862 (2009), 1907 (2009) and 2023 (2011), requests the Council to instruct Eritrea to honour its commitments.

I shall keep you informed of the developments that occur in the coming days.

(*Signed*) Mr. Mahmoud Ali **Youssouf**